

To: Chuck Conner, USDA Deputy Undersecretary
Mark Rey, USDA Deputy Undersecretary

From: Sig Restad, Master of the Northland Pioneer Grange No. 1, of Palmer, Alaska and
Chairman of the Ag Committee

Date: August 25, 2005

I would like to respond to the six proposed questions, especially in ways that could effect Alaska's agriculture.

Question 2: How Should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

Question number two addresses primarily global markets, which Alaska's pioneer situation is unlikely to impact, but policies should concentrate on improving local state competitive production and marketing potential for the benefit of the state and security of the nation.

Fisheries and forest products being an exception
In states as removed from mainland production as Alaska and Hawaii, programs such as conservative programs on one commodity should not adversely effect the efficiency of the production of another, such as refusing a reliable and profitable local milk production move.

Question 5: How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

Assist with farm-to-market development of new crops and crops that have unique quality when grown in our northern climate.

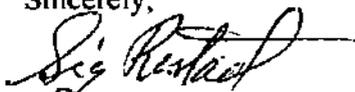
Question 6: How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

Product development needs to look for new products and look at new areas. Alaska provides some special temperature, season and photoperiod conditions that could assist.

If the Farm Bill could assist in the transfer of Alaska fish processing policy on handling processing waste from grind-and-pump to processing fish meal for livestock, food and fertilizer, it would be a great conservation move, an economic move for agriculture, both local and global, and it should pay for itself. It does almost everywhere else.

These comments are extremely brief. I would be happy to discuss them in detail at any time.

Sincerely,


Sig Restad, Master